

1608/695.
SOME USEFUL
OBSERVATIONS
AND
ADVICES

Taken from the Mouth of
JOHN ALDERSON,
deceased :

WITH
A short Account of him, during the
Time of his last Illness.

To which is added,
A TESTIMONY from the
Monthly-meeting of *Sedbergh* in *Westmorland*,
concerning him.

L O N D O N : Printed,

And,

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at the *Globe* in *Meath-Street*, 1765.

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A TESTIMONY from the
Monthly meeting of Friends in Wexford,
concerning him.



LONDON: Printed,

DUBLIN: Printed by Isaac Jackson,
at the Old Swan, 1794.

A TESTIMONY from the Monthly-meeting of
Sedbergh, concerning JOHN ALDERSON, deceased.

OUR dear and well-beloved Friend *John Alderson* was born at *Ravenstonedale* in *Westmorland*, in the Year 1721, being Son of our aged and esteemed Friends *Ralph* and *Alice Alderson*, by whom he had a religious Education, both by Example and Precept, which, we doubt not, was signally serviceable to him in the time of his Youth, when he demeaned himself to them in a very dutiful manner, which we believe drew down the Blessing of Heaven upon him. About the nineteenth Year of his Age, he was remarkably favoured with an humbling Visitation from on high, which as he yielded Obedience to, and kept under the forming Hand powerfully working in him, he became fitted for the Work of the Ministry, into which he was called about twelve Years afterward; wherein, in a short time, he grew skilful, and laboured with unwearied Diligence, visiting divers Parts of this Nation several times. He also visited *Ireland* and *Scotland*; in all which, we have great reason to believe his Labours were acceptable, and of good Service to the Churches, as he was about Home, when we were favoured with his Company, upon many publick Occasions, as well as in our more select Meetings; which he was diligent in the Attendance of. In time of Silence he was close and steady in a fervent Travail of Spirit before the Lord; was often

enabled to unfold the deep Myſteries of the Kingdom, and the Work of Regeneration, and alſo ſtrongly to preſs Friends to a ſteady Watchfulneſs againſt the many ſubtle Wiles and Temptations of the Enemy of Man's Happineſs.

He had a great place with, and reach upon, both Friends and others, his Miniſtry being powerful and edifying, without affectation. His Humility and circumspect ſelf-denying Life were remarkable, greatly adorning the Goſpel Miniſter. He was alſo clear and ſtrong in the Diſcipline of the Church, and very helpful therein; for though his Love flowed freely to thoſe in Community with us, and to Mankind in general, yet he was much concerned to have the Camp kept clean; and in order thereto, he found himſelf concerned to rouse the Lukewarm and Negligent; reprove and rebuke the Backſliders, and Diſorderly amongſt us, with a becoming Zeal, accompanied with fervent Charity, which made him beloved of all who rightly knew him. He was much inward, and ſeemed to be conſtantly waiting, to feel the Motions of the holy Spirit to lead him forth in his ſeveral Services; and had cloſely to preſs upon others, the Neceſſity and Advantage of frequent inward Retirement of Mind; knowing that to be the Way whereby he witneſſed the Renewings of Wiſdom, and Strength to perſevere in the Way of his Duty.

About a Year ago he was ſeized with a Diſorder in his Breſt or Stomach, which, notwithſtanding what Helps could be procured, remained upon him; nevertheless, in this weak Situation as to his Health,
he



he found a Concern upon his Mind to pay another Visit to Friends in some of the Southern Parts of this Nation, particularly the City of *London*; which being laid before this Meeting, for our Approbation and Certificate, it made very deep Impressions on our Minds, to see him so given up and devoted to the great Master's Service under such bodily Weakness. He proceeded upon the said Journey, in Company with our valuable Friend *Anthony Mason*, with whom he arrived at *London* in the twelfth Month last, in a declining State of Health; nevertheless he attended some Meetings in that City; and by Accounts from some Friends there, as well as his Companion, he appeared in publick Testimony, to the Comfort and Edification of many; but his natural Strength continuing to decrease, he was confined to his Chamber near seventeen Weeks, and most part of that Time to his Bed, at our Friend *Thomas Jackson's*, where all necessary Care and Assistance were administered to him.

His Illness was often very painful, and bodily Affliction great, which he bore with exemplary Patience and Resignation; he was frequently visited by many Friends, to whom his mouth was often opened in Advice, Exhortation and Encouragement, suitable to their States; which being attended with the living Evidence of TRUTH, it is hoped will remain, and be as *Bread cast upon the Waters*, which may return after many Days. He divers times expressed, that he found Peace in giving up to answer the Requirings of his Lord and Master, to pay that last Visit to the Churches; saying, *If he had died*

at

at home, without endeavouring to discharge what he believed to be his Duty, he had died in Disobedience.

He often spoke of the near Sympathy he felt with his beloved and affectionate Wife, and intimated the tenderest Regard for his Children, with Desires that they might be brought up in the Way of TRUTH. His Resignation to the ordering Hand of Providence was very remarkable; for though he signified how desirable it would be, to lay down his Head, and depart this Life, as in the Bosom of a beloved Wife, yet he was freely given up; saying, *It was more to be desired to die in the Bosom of his dear Lord, for that he saw, in the Resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in Marriage.*

His Understanding and Memory were mercifully preserved clear and strong to the last; and though sometimes he said, *He felt great Poverty of Spirit*, yet, at other times *he was graciously favoured with the Abundings of Love and Life*; which were often comfortably felt by those who visited him. He was blessed with remarkable Serenity and Quietude of Mind, the preceding Part of the Day on which he died, declaring, *He was easy both in Body and Mind.*

He departed this Life the 26th of the fourth Month, near Midnight, and his Body was interred in *Bunhill-fields* the 30th of the same, after a large and solemn Meeting held at *Devonshire-house* for that Purpose; aged near forty three, and a Minister about twelve Years.

Signed

Signed in and on Behalf of our said Meeting, held at Brigflats near Sedbergh, the 29th of the 5th Month 1764, by fifty three Friends, whose Names for Brevity's-sake are omitted.

The said TESTIMONY, on Behalf of our Friend *John Alderson*, was read and approved at our Quarterly-meeting, held at *Brigflats* for *Westmorland* by Adjournment, the 29th of the fifth Month 1764, and signed by Order of the same, by

Isaac Wilson.

Clerk to the said Meeting.

SOME

SOME USEFUL

Observations and Advices.

LONDON, the 13th of the first Month, 1764.

OUR dear and well beloved Friend *John Alderson*, of *Ravenstonedale*, finding a Concern on his Mind to pay a religious Visit to Friends in the southern Parts of this Nation; he accordingly, with the Unity of his Brethren, set forward on his Journey (though weak in Body) from *Settle*, accompanied with our beloved Friend *Anthony Mason*, his near Relation.—They travelled together in great Love, mutual Affection, and true Unity of Spirit, being one in a weighty Concern for the Welfare of *Zion*.—His great Care in his Journey was, *to travail deeply in Spirit, to reach the Root of Life and Light*, lest he should be drawn to minister to the Cravings and Affections of the People, and not to their true State.—He was cautious in Appearance, composed and settled, with a steady Eye to Him who breaks the Bread, and gives His Servants to dispense suitably to the Condition of the People; and was faithful in administering Judgment on the transgressing Nature.—He was likewise helped to preach the Gospel in Simplicity, and not to mix flighty Expressions and Elevations in his Ministry, and watchful to stand as short a Time as possible, and to stop as soon as he felt the Influence of the Spirit to abate.—A deep Sense was given him of the unsettled float-

floating Disposition of the People, whose Expectations were more after Words, than the Word of eternal Life, and careful not to feed them with the Food they seemed most to hunger after; and at many Places he caution'd Ministers against gratifying the Peoples Lust after Words.

His Appearance in that solemn Duty of Prayer was short, pertinent, and accompanied with Power and great Awfulness, especially his last Appearance of that kind at *Albans*, where he was much favoured with divine Goodness, and seemed as one about to leave the Earth, to partake more fully of the blessed State of the Saints in Light.

From hence he was favoured with a degree of Strength to reach the City, and to attend some Meetings of Friends. The few Testimonies he appeared in, though short, were very acceptable to the Living amongst us. But it pleased the alwise Disposer of His People and Children, to visit him with an Increase of that bodily Weakness which attended him in his Journey; nevertheless the Lord, in divine Goodness, whose tender Mercies fail not them who love Him and keep His Commandments, eminently supported and comforted him, in the midst of his Afflictions, with the Consolation of His blessed Spirit, which was of more Value to his travailing Soul, than thousands of Gold or Silver, or the Consideration of any perishing Object.—A Sense of the continued Goodness of God, who had been with him all his Life long, had forgiven his Backslidings, restored and preserved him from falling a Prey to the Enemy of Souls, greatly humbled and bowed his

Spirit, in Thankfulness and solemn Praise to the great Preserver of Men, much to the Edification, Consolation and Encouragement of some present; which caused us to be humbly thankful to our God, who directs His faithful Messengers in their Service, to speak suitably to the States of the People, publicly or privately, either by way of Reproof or Comfort.

Being favoured with a sound Mind, and deep Discerning both of that Spirit which serves God, and that which dishonours Him, he was divinely open'd to look back into his past Life in both these States, and to commemorate the Dealings of Providence with him from his Youth, when the Almighty called him from a State of Darknes to the Light of the Gospel of Christ, and at length to be a Publisher thereof for the good of Souls.---Under the Influence of that divine Love, which first loved him, he was inclin'd to leave a few Hints, respecting the Beginning and Progress of Truth in his Soul, to be communicated to his Brethren and Sisters; and if it may have a Tendency to stir up the pure Mind in any, to the Love of God, and to good Works, (the natural Product thereof) his Labours of Love will be answered.

First then, he was led to give a short Narration of the early Part of his Life, when he was young in Years; at which Season, he said, 'He was mercifully visited with the Day-spring from on high, and in the Light of the Lord it was clearly discovered to him, *what he should do, and what he should abstain from*; but being addicted to youthful Follies and Vanities, he was unwilling to renounce
 ' them,

' them, as well as to come up in Obedience to the
 ' Advice and Admonitions of his faithful and experi-
 ' enc'd Parents, in the Truth.—By his Disobedi-
 ' ence, he *put out the Candle which the Lord had*
 ' *lighted in his Soul*, and continued for some Time,
 ' to walk in Darkneſs; in which dark and wilder-
 ' neſs State, the Almighty, for wiſe Purpoſes by
 ' him unſeen, ſuffered Satan to try and prove him
 ' with *various Temptations*; not only with the
 ' Glory of temporal Delights, but with Sins exceed-
 ' ing ſinful in their Nature.—He had received a
 ' Meaſure of Light and Grace, but he rebelled
 ' againſt it; and though he was kept from falling
 ' into groſs Pollutions, yet his vain, light, and airy
 ' Will, and aspiring Imagination, was unwilling to
 ' ſubmit to the Yoke of Chriſt, to follow Him in
 ' Humility and Self-denial; and as he had, by Tranſ-
 ' greſſion againſt the inward Law, which is Light,
 ' forfeited his Right to the Tree of Life, he found
 ' no Way for a Return but by the flaming Sword,
 ' which in an eminent manner ſeemed furniſhed for
 ' him, in order to divide the Precious from the Vile,
 ' and which did execute the fierce Anger of the Lord
 ' upon his tranſgreſſing Nature, which was ſtrong
 ' and unwilling to have Sin deſtroyed both Root and
 ' Branch. For ſome Time the Lord executed his
 ' juſt Judgments, ſo that his Terrors made him afraid,
 ' that his Mercy was clear gone from him for ever,
 ' which brought him to deſpair of attaining Life
 ' eternal.

' But when the Almighty (who redeems Zion
 ' through Judgment) was pleaſed to ſay, *it was*
 B 2 *enough*;

' *enough* ; and this Dispensation of Condemnation
 ' had humbled his Spirit, and bowed his Neck to the
 ' Yoke of Christ, by the powerful Operation of His
 ' Spirit, he became as Clay in the Hands of the Pot-
 ' ter ; and tho' the Ministration of Condemnation
 ' had been glorious, yet as he became obedient, the
 ' Ministration of Justification became more glorious,
 ' as he could now sing of *Judgment and Mercy*.---
 ' And as he kept faithful to the Discoveries of the
 ' Light, which now shone brighter to the perfect
 ' Day, he was preserved therein from turning again
 ' to Folly ; knowing, by purchased Experience,
 ' that all who are saved from Sin, and persevere in
 ' a Life of Righteousness, must walk steadily in the
 ' Light of the Lord.'

When he was in the Employment of a Shepherd,
 being alone, he was by the Love of God so power-
 fully attracted to love Him again, and all Mankind,
 that under the sacred Influence and holy Anointing
 thereof, he found the Gospel of Salvation flowed
 universally towards them, and the Word of Life
 sprang and flowed in his Soul, as if he had been
 preaching to many People. Thus was the Word
 nigh in his Heart, and the Time was approaching
 that it was to be in his Mouth, to call People to
 come and see how good God is.---But being appre-
 hensive he was not yet sufficiently baptized for so
 sacred a Calling, he reasoned with Flesh and Blood,
 and declined to give up his Name to engage under
 the Captain of our Salvation, to encounter Sin in
 others ; upon which he mention'd his Distress and
 Fears to his experienced and aged Parent, who an-
 swer'd

swer'd him, *That if he thus reasoned, he might never come up in that Duty.* Which, no doubt, she had a full and confirmed Sense, *was required of him by the Almighty.*

And now our dear Friend having undergone many and deep Probations, the great Baptizer and Qualifier for the Work of the Ministry, was pleased to give him a Dispensation of the Gospel to preach, that he might shew unto Men the Way of Life and Salvation.— And he intimated, ‘ That in the
‘ Course of his Ministry, he labour’d to the best of
‘ his Knowledge, to discharge his Duty faithfully;
‘ and when sometimes he missed his Way, it was
‘ through Weakness, and not Wilfulness.’ And let it be observed by young Ministers, that he said,
‘ He many times stood open to the Advice of his
‘ Brethren in the Truth; saying, with the royal
‘ Preacher, *Let the Righteous reprove me, and it
‘ shall be a Kindness.*’

Thus as he kept near to Truth, and was preserved in his Love to the Almighty, with a single Eye to His Honour and the Prosperity of Truth, he was called into more extensive Service, to visit the Churches in several Counties; in which Service he received the Reward of Peace.

He also dropped a brotherly Caution to young Ministers in a *single State*, who may apprehend a Concern to move from their respective Meetings, to visit the Brethren, &c. ‘ That they carefully conduct themselves, in a manner becoming the Gospel they have to preach, that they may adorn it
‘ in all Things; and watch daily and deeply at Wisdom’s

' dom's Gate, that they may avoid every Snare that
 ' may be laid for their Feet by the grand Adversary,
 ' who endeavours by all means to marr the Work
 ' of Truth, more especially in those who, by divine
 ' Aid, are engaged to pull down his strong Holds
 ' of Sin in others.'— He advised, ' That they
 ' should avoid so much as thinking, while in their
 ' Service, on a Change of Condition; or letting
 ' their Minds or Eye out after any Object they
 ' might think a suitable Companion in a Marriage
 ' State; and if any thing of that Import should be
 ' suggested by others, to keep clear and shut out
 ' every Proposition of this Sort, lest it should prove
 ' a Hurt to themselves and to their Service.'— Al-
 ' so, ' That such young Ministers as incline to mar-
 ' ry, may be careful to marry in the Lord, and to
 ' make Choice of a Companion likely to be an
 ' Help-meet in the Advancement of His Honour,
 ' and the Prosperity of Truth;— and not to let any
 ' temporal View, either of Riches, or of outward
 ' Accomplishments, be the Motive of joining to
 ' one void of Virtue and true Religion; for these
 ' unwarrantable Pursuits have done much Hurt in
 ' our Society, and have laid a Foundation for great
 ' Sorrow, both to themselves and their Posterity;
 ' it being hard, for Persons of great Wealth and
 ' Reputation in the World, to submit to the low
 ' and humble Appearance, Precepts and Doctrines
 ' of Christ in the Heart.'

He likewise observed, how he was conducted in
 this important Affair of Marriage. ' As I was fa-
 ' voured, *said he*, to keep a single Eye to the Ho-
 ' nour

' nour of Truth, Providence was pleased to point out
 ' a suitable Bosom-friend, a virtuous religious young
 ' Woman ; industrious, though not possessed of
 ' much earthly Riches, but who had a Share of those
 ' Riches *which wax not old* ; and was intrusted, by
 ' our great Lord and Master, with a Talent of Grace,
 ' which has been improved to His Honour. In
 ' every Circumstance which called me to my Duty
 ' as a Minister, she has not been a Hinderance, but
 ' a Promoter of the Work, which has reflected Ho-
 ' nour to the Cause I am engaged in, and hath been
 ' a Blessing to me ; and my earnest Desire is, that
 ' she may be favoured as an Elder in the Truth ; so
 ' will she be a Blessing to the Church, as well as a
 ' good Example to our tender Babes. Her pious
 ' Instruction and Endeavours will be, I trust, to
 ' nurture them in the plain Way of Truth, and not
 ' only not to indulge, but restrain them, where any
 ' Inclination appears, which may bring Dishonour
 ' to the high and holy Profession we make. And if
 ' my Children should be continued in this danger-
 ' ous World, in the Tendernefs of an endeared Pa-
 ' rent, if I should be removed from Time to Eter-
 ' nity in this present Weakness, I would, recom-
 ' mending them to the *Blessing of the everlasting*
 ' *Hills*, leave them this solemn Injunction ; *To*
 ' *be in Subjection to their tender Mother*, as one ex-
 ' perience in the Truth ; and also *to be careful*
 ' *not to reject the tender Emotions and early Visi-*
 ' *tations of kind Providence*, who sometimes is
 ' pleased to manifest Himself in meer Childhood ;
 ' and as they take heed to this Reprover and Di-
 ' rector,

' rector, the Spirit of Truth in themselves, and to
 ' the Counsel and Admonitions of an affectionate
 ' Parent, I have no doubt but my Wife, as well as
 ' tender Offspring, will be blessed with the *Dew of*
 ' *Heaven*, and a Sufficiency of temporal Accommo-
 ' dations suitable to a Pilgrim State, in which we
 ' are while here. And though I leave them but a
 ' small worldly Inheritance, I leave them my Exam-
 ' ple of *Industry*, which, through Mercy, has pre-
 ' served me above Want.--- I also recommend to
 ' them, To endeavour to be contented in a low and
 ' mean Way, remembering our great Pattern, who
 ' though He was Lord of Heaven and the whole
 ' Earth, denied Himself of earthly Accommodati-
 ' ons to that degree, that *he had not whereon to lay*
 ' *His Head.*'

Our dear Friend having delivered what seemed to
 affect his Mind respecting himself and his near na-
 tural Connections, did not forget *Zion*, for whose
 Sake he had not been silent, but both at home and
 abroad, in the Ability communicated by the divine
 Hand, laboured earnestly for her Restoration and
 Return from her present Captivity, that it might be
 said to her once more, *Thy God reigneth.* And a
 Concern continuing on his Mind, that she might
 arise and shake herself from the Dust of the Earth,
 which eclipses her Glory and dims her Beauty, he
 observed, ' That one eminent Cause of her sorrow-
 ' ful Declension, and why she is thus in a strange
 ' Land, is the same that occasioned *Israel* of old to
 ' go into Captivity. *Israel* had forsaken the Lord,
 ' the Fountain of Wisdom; and the People now
 ' have

' have lean'd too much to their own Understand-
 ' ing, which has been clouded with earthly Views.
 ' That Eye is darken'd which should have look'd
 ' singly to the Honour of God; for which Pur-
 ' pose He gave us a Being here. Men have had
 ' a View more to their own Honour, the Gran-
 ' deur, the Glory, Friendships, Reputation, Pro-
 ' fits and Pleasures of this Life, which our Lord
 ' pronounced a Cause of Unfruitfulness then, and
 ' which remains to this Day, a great Obstruction
 ' to the springing up and Growth of the Seed of
 ' the Kingdom, in the Hearts of the Children of
 ' Men in general, and in us as a People in
 ' particular. In this dark State, many presume
 ' to judge of spiritual Concerns and Matters;
 ' determining in favour of their carnal Minds
 ' and vain Inclinations; forsaking that Simpli-
 ' city, and godly Sincerity, wherein the first *Chris-*
 ' *tians*, and our faithful Predecessors in the Truth,
 ' had their Conversation in the World; not in
 ' the fleshly Wisdom thereof. In this Wisdom
 ' from below, People are joining Heaven and
 ' Earth, and claiming an Inheritance in two King-
 ' doms, notwithstanding our Saviour assures us,
 ' *we cannot serve two Masters* But though we
 ' sorrowfully see many in this dangerous State,
 ' yet the Lord has not left Himself without sen-
 ' sible Witnesses of His Power and Goodness,
 ' Testimony-bearers for His great Name and
 ' Truth's Sake, both Ministers, Elders, and some
 ' among the People, who are secretly weeping as

‘ between the Porch and the Altar, saying, as formerly, *Spare Thy People, Lord, and give them not up to the Reproach of the Heathen.*’

And that all Ministers and Elders should be unanimous in this great Concern, he advised, ‘ That they be very weighty in their Spirits, and travail deep to come to the Foundation of Light and Life, that they may clearly discern the Mystery and Subtilty of that Wisdom in which carnal Men, with a seeming Sanctity, are endeavouring to undermine the very Foundation of Truth.-----That Ministers be very cautious and careful, that they are not led out of the Line of Truth, and bias’d by the Affections and Pretences of the People, in consenting to spare any thing that appertains to *Amalek*, because the People will have it so; but remember, the Determination of the Lord is, *that Amalek shall be utterly destroyed*; and also, that we forget not a Remark a Minister of the Gospel made formerly, *That when the Declension appeared most visible in the Church, ’twas observed Ministers and Elders were too remiss, and gave way too much to the People.*’

Our Friend dropped another Caution to Ministers, who must be sensible of the Disposition too general among Professors: ‘ That they keep strictly to the Motion and Leading of Truth, and not gratify that unstable Mind which feeds on Words, and thereby places a Dependence on the Arm of Flesh.---As this Spirit is to be starved
‘ and

‘ and not fed, the Food thus administred will
 ‘ not turn to proper Nourishment, but rather
 ‘ destroy any Remains of Life, or at least hinder
 ‘ its Growth.’--- He further advised, ‘ That when
 ‘ a Minister was favoured in a Meeting, he might
 ‘ carefully avoid any Elevation on that Account,
 ‘ and keeping deeply bowed and humbled, know-
 ‘ ing that the Instrument is nothing, but He that
 ‘ makes use of it, is All in All.--- And when
 ‘ any are thus favoured in meeting with the Re-
 ‘ newing of Life, and have partook of the Cup
 ‘ of Blessing from the Hand of Him who sus-
 ‘ tains that Life He begets in His Children, that
 ‘ every one be careful they lose not the Savour
 ‘ of this precious Ointment, by running into ma-
 ‘ ny Words, and unprofitable Discourse in Fami-
 ‘ lies; but that their Words be few and savoury.
 ‘ This would be a good Example, and prevent
 ‘ that Lightness of Conversation, too visible a-
 ‘ mongst us as a People, unbecoming our profes-
 ‘ sed Gravity and *Christian* Deportment.’

He was very earnest in recommending to Mi-
 nisters, when they apprehend they are moved to
 that solemn Duty of publick Prayer, ‘ That they
 ‘ be very humble in their Spirits, and wait for a
 ‘ Certainty, that they are called to be Mouth for
 ‘ the People: And, in these solemn Approaches
 ‘ to the infinite Being, that finite Creatures pre-
 ‘ sume not to dictate, and inadvertently go about
 ‘ to inform Him who knows all Things; for we
 ‘ should be short, pertinent, reverent and awful;

‘ remembring He, that teaches true Prayer, and
 ‘ leads to pray, has said, *When ye pray, use not*
 ‘ *vain Repetitions, as the Heathen do; for they*
 ‘ *think that they shall be heard for their much*
 ‘ *speaking, Mat. vi. 7.*’--- He also advised Mi-
 nisters, ‘ Not to be careful in Testimony for
 ‘ learned Words or high Expressions ; because the
 ‘ Wisdom of the Creature, no more than the
 ‘ Will of the Creature, can work the Righteous-
 ‘ ness of God.’

He also cautioned, ‘ That Ministers may not
 ‘ have a View to obtain Riches, either in Mar-
 ‘ riage or otherwise ; thinking thereby, that for
 ‘ the future they may be more at Liberty to go
 ‘ on the Lord’s Errands ; for many have found
 ‘ their Mistake herein, and that they have been
 ‘ further intangled, and more incumbered.-----
 ‘ But if Covetousness be the Motive to pursue
 ‘ great Wealth, this Disposition is the more un-
 ‘ warrantable, and will end in much Sorrow and
 ‘ Confusion.’

He also advised such as might be required to
 travel in the Service of Truth, ‘ That they look
 ‘ not at outward Circumstances, but follow the
 ‘ Call of the Lord, as he had done in this present
 ‘ Journey ; when he left a tender Wife but just
 ‘ recovered from bodily Infirmary, and notwith-
 ‘ standing his own weak State, he witnessed great
 ‘ Peace of Mind, and a Confirmation of being in
 ‘ his Duty.’

When

When any Ministers are required to leave their nearest temporal Comforts, he exhorted, ‘ That
 ‘ they give up all cheerfully, and go forth in Faith,
 ‘ and a Reliance on that Hand which is able and
 ‘ willing to support His faithful Servants, who
 ‘ have His Honour and Glory more in View than
 ‘ any temporal Accommodations.’

He further advised, ‘ That in Meetings for
 ‘ Discipline, Ministers should labour for a right
 ‘ Spirit, and in that be impartial without respect of
 ‘ Persons, and particularize Things where neces-
 ‘ sary ; for if we speak only in Generals, the Peo-
 ‘ ple wave and evade those which may be spoken
 ‘ to in a sober, solid Spirit, tho’ not by way of
 ‘ Preaching.----That Ministers be careful to be
 ‘ temperate in all things, and at all times, and es-
 ‘ pecially in the use of Wine and strong Liquors,
 ‘ particularly when they attend Meetings;--- re-
 ‘ membering, under the Law, *the Priests were*
 ‘ *not to drink Wine nor strong Drink, when they*
 ‘ *were going to the Tabernacle of the Congregation.*

He likewise delivered a Word of Advice to El-
 ders, ‘ That they look well to their Calling, whe-
 ‘ ther it be of God or Man only ; and be careful
 ‘ to witness a proper Qualification for that impor-
 ‘ tant Office. That they would consider, it is ne-
 ‘ cessary they be baptized with the same Baptism
 ‘ with the Ministers, and know a drinking of the
 ‘ same Cup of suffering for, and cleansing from Sin,
 ‘ and know a being dipped into the States of the
 ‘ Church, and a suffering with and for the Seed
 ‘ in

‘ in Bondage. They, as well as the Ministers,
 ‘ must be cloathed with Humility. They must be
 ‘ Ensamples to the Flock. They should sympa-
 ‘ thize with them, as well as admonish and re-
 ‘ buke with all Authority, Meekness and Long-
 ‘ suffering.’

‘ Thus should Ministers and Elders be very
 ‘ careful, that their Faith may produce consistent
 ‘ Fruits, and that the same may appear in the chris-
 ‘ tian Education of their Children, and in their
 ‘ Conduct towards them. That they rule well
 ‘ their own Houses; or how shall they be fit to
 ‘ take the Care of the Church;--- And though it
 ‘ must be a superior Power that must effect a Change
 ‘ in the vain Inclinations of Youth, who are much
 ‘ addicted to Pride and Vanity; yet it is the indis-
 ‘ pensible Duty of Parents, not to comply with or
 ‘ gratify such Desires, as evidently dishonour the
 ‘ Truth we profess; but on the contrary, to re-
 ‘ strain them while under their Care, and main-
 ‘ tained at their Expence.--- It would also be of
 ‘ great Advantage, if the Wives of Ministers and
 ‘ Elders considered, and carefully observed, the
 ‘ Stations of their Husbands in the Church, that
 ‘ they bring no Reproach on the Truth; and re-
 ‘ member the Apostle’s Description, particularly of
 ‘ such Women, *That they be grave, sober, and*
 ‘ *faithful in all Things, Teachers of good Things,*
 ‘ *and jointly, with their Husbands, rule their own*
 ‘ *Houses well.*---- That Ministers and Elders be
 ‘ careful to remove every Obstruction, which may
 ‘ hinder

‘ hinder an harmonious Labour in them all, for the
 ‘ Promotion of Truth; and be willing that the
 ‘ Image of Gold, Silver, Iron, Clay, &c. which
 ‘ hinders the true Gospel Unity from being fully
 ‘ maintained among us, be destroyed by the Stone
 ‘ cut out of the Mountain without Hands, by that
 ‘ invisable Power which alone can subdue, and bring
 ‘ every thing into Order; the Order and Direction
 ‘ of His Spirit, in whom the whole Building is
 ‘ fitly framed together, and groweth into an holy
 ‘ Temple in the Lord.’

Having freely delivered the above Hints, which
 rested at times on his Mind, he addressed himself
 as to his Brethren in the Truth in great Love,
 ‘ Committing and commending every one to God,
 ‘ and to the Word of His Grace and good Spirit,
 ‘ which is able to qualify and furnish for every good
 ‘ Word and Service in the Church; for whose Sake,
 ‘ *continued he*, I have travelled in the Deeps; and
 ‘ now, in the seeming Conclusion of my Time, I
 ‘ witness renewed Peace, and divine Refreshment,
 ‘ and with my languishing Breath, under the Influ-
 ‘ ence of Gospel Love, I am enabled to pray for
 ‘ the Peace of our *Zion*, that Truth and Righteous-
 ‘ ness may prosper within her Gates, and the Sal-
 ‘ vation of our God may be yet appointed as Walls
 ‘ and Bulwarks about her Cities.---- This is what I
 ‘ continue earnestly to wish, not only for my Bre-
 ‘ thren and fellow Members, but for every one who
 ‘ may receive the Invitation of God’s Love, and be
 ‘ obedient to the Dictates of His Spirit, and so be-
 ‘ come

‘ come Inhabitants of this holy City, the City of
 ‘ the great King, who is ever worthy to rule and
 ‘ reign in the Hearts of the People.

‘ Thus having relieved my Spirit, there remains
 ‘ nothing, but to desire my endeared Love may be
 ‘ remembered to my affectionate Wife, (who I de-
 ‘ fire may not grieve beyond Measure, but freely
 ‘ resign me into the Hands of my faithful Creator,)
 ‘ also to my dear Children, with my dear aged Parents
 ‘ and Relations according to the Flesh; telling
 ‘ them, That through the continued Loving-kind-
 ‘ ness of a merciful Saviour, it is well with me,
 ‘ and I am favoured with a comfortable Evidence,
 ‘ that if I am removed with the present Weakness
 ‘ of Body, He will receive me into the Arms of
 ‘ His Mercy; and that I go to their God, and my
 ‘ God, to their Father, and my Father, to join
 ‘ the heavenly Host, in ever magnifying His Love
 ‘ and Mercy, who hath loved and washed us in the
 ‘ Blood of the immaculate Lamb: To whom, with
 ‘ the Father, through the holy Spirit, be Glory,
 ‘ Honour and Praise, now and eternally in the
 ‘ Heavens. *Amen.*



F I N I S.

